I.



THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF MOLD

ANNUAL

HEALTH REPORT

for 1967

Medical Officer of Health :

D. J. FRASER, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector :

R. GOUCHER, M.A.P.H.I.

Edwards, Printers, Mold.

MOLD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Report on the health of the district, together with the Report of the Public Health Inspector, for the year ended 31st December, 1967.

There were 130 live births, 52 less than in 1966, giving a birth rate lower than that for England and Wales.

Still births totalled 1, compared with 3 in 1966. Deaths numbered 69, compared with 84. The leading causes of death were again circulatory diseases and cancer. Table IV gives an analysis of the causes of death. Once again there were no deaths associated with pregnancy and childbirth.

There were 2 deaths of infants under a year old, compared with 1 in 1966, 2 in 1965, 4 in 1964, 7 in 1963, 6 in 1962 and 4 in 1961.

During the year there were 3 notifications of infectious disease (excluding tuberculosis). There were no cases of poliomyelitis or diphtheria. Four new cases of tuberculosis were reported. There were no deaths from this complaint.

Two cases of measles were notified, and one of dysentery.

The Mass Radiography Unit continued to visit Mold every three weeks. 1,096 persons were examined during the year, compared with 1,061 in 1966, 942 in 1965 and 912 in 1964.

B.C.G. vaccination against tuberculosis continued in local schools.

Poliomyelitis vaccination continued, the local acceptance rate being high.

I commend to you the Report of the Public Health Inspector. This deals with the large mass of day to day work which is carried out in a Health Department.

I wish to thank the Council and the Officers for the help which has been freely given throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. FRASER,

Medical Officer of Health.

Town Hall,

Earl Road, Mold.

Telephone—Mold 2729 or 2881, Mold 3316 (Home).

VITAL STATISTICS, 1967.

Population : Registrar General's estimate at mid-year	7,730
Census, 1961	6,894
Live Births :	
Number	130
Crude birth rate per 1000 population	16.81
Adjusted local birth rate	16.81
National birth rate	17.2
Illegitimate live births per cent. of total live births	6.15
Illegitimate live births	8
Still Births :	
Number	1
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	7.63
National still birth rate	14.8
Total live and still births	131
Infant deaths (under 1 year)	2
Infant Mortality Rates :	
Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births ...	15.38
Legitimate infant deaths per 1000 legitimate live births	8.19
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1000 illegitimate live births	125.0
National infant mortality rate per 1000 live births	18.3
Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1000 total live births)	15.38
National neo-natal mortality rate	12.5
Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1000 total live births)	7.69
National early neo-natal mortality rate	10.8
Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1000 total live and still births)	15.26
National perinatal mortality rate	25.4
Maternal mortality (including abortion) :	
Number of deaths	Nil
Rate per 1000 total live and still births	Nil
Deaths (from all causes)	69
Crude death rate per 1000 population	8.92
Adjusted local death rate	12.48
National death rate per 1000 population ...	11.2

SOCIAL CONDITIONS INCLUDING CHIEF INDUSTRIES.

There has been no change in the area under this heading during the year under review.

Area in acres—1,160 statutory acres.
Population (Census 1961)—6,894.
Number of habitable houses—2,402.
Rateable Value—£238,162.
Product of a penny rate—£970.

The various vital statistics are listed below in tabular form. For the purposes of comparison, figures for last year are given and, where appropriate, the rates for England and Wales as a whole.

TABLE I. **Live Births.**

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate ...	63 ...	59 ...	122
Illegitimate ...	5 ...	3 ...	8
Total ...	68	62	130

Live Birth Rate per 1000 Population :—

1958—20.00
1959—17.51
1960—18.62
1961—19.29
1962—20.42
1963—22.50
1964—23.12
1965—20.65
1966—23.97
1967—16.81

England and Wales : Live Birth Rate per 1000 Population :—

1958—16.4
1959—16.5
1960—17.1
1961—17.4
1962—18.0
1963—18.2
1964—18.4
1965—18.1
1966—17.7
1967—17.2

These figures show a fall in the local birth rate. There were 130 live births, compared with 182 in 1966, 164 in 1965, 170 in 1964, 160 in 1963, 143 in 1962 and 132 in 1961.

The Registrar General's "Comparability Factor" being 1.00, the corrected birth rate is 16.81 per 1000 population.

TABLE II. **Still Births.**

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate ...	—	—	—
Illegitimate ...	1	—	1
Total ...	1	—	1

Still Birth Rate per 1000 total Live and Still Births :—

1958—36.49
1959—48.78
1960—45.80
1961—22.22
1962—13.79
1963—6.21
1964—5.85
1965—29.58
1966—16.21
1967—7.63

Still Birth Rate per 1000 Population :—

1958—0.75
1959—0.89
1960—0.89
1961—0.43
1962—0.28
1963—0.14
1964—0.13
1965—0.66
1966—0.39
1967—0.12

England and Wales: Still Birth Rate per 1000 Live and Still Births :—

1958—16.4
1959—20.7
1960—19.7
1961—18.7
1962—18.1
1963—17.2
1964—16.4
1965—15.7
1966—15.4
1967—14.8

There was 1 still birth in 1967, compared with 3 in 1966, 6 in 1965, 1 in 1964, 1 in 1963, 2 in 1962, 3 in 1961, 6 in 1960, 6 in 1959 and 5 in 1958.

TABLE III. **Death (General) Rate :—**

All ages (all causes)—Males 41, Females 28, Total 69, compared with 84 in 1966, 71 in 1965, 80 in 1964, 83 in 1963, 75 in 1962, 99 in 1961, 84 in 1960 and 82 in 1959.

Crude Death Rate per 1000 Population :—

1958—13.48
1959—12.27
1960—12.51
1961—14.47
1962—10.71
1963—11.67
1964—10.88
1965—9.47
1966—11.06
1967—8.92

England and Wales: Death Rate per 1000 Population :—

1958—11.7
1959—11.6
1960—11.5
1961—12.0
1962—11.9
1963—12.2
1964—11.3
1965—11.5
1966—11.7
1967—11.2

There has been a fall in the crude death rate for the Mold Urban District. The rate for England and Wales was 11.2. The rate for Mold is lower than that for England and Wales as a whole. There were 69 deaths, compared with 84 in 1966.

TABLE IV. **Deaths (General) Analysis.**

Causes.	M.	F.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Population.
Cancer of stomach	1	1	2	... 0.25
Cancer of lung, bronchus	2	2	4	... 0.51
Cancer of breast	—	2	2	... 0.25
Cancer of uterus	—	2	2	... 0.25
Cancer of other organs	7	4	11	... 1.42
Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	4	9	13	... 1.68
Coronary disease, angina	14	1	15	... 1.94
Hypertension with heart disease ...	1	—	1	... 0.12
Other heart disease	2	1	3	... 0.30
Pneumonia	1	2	3	... 0.38
Bronchitis	3	—	3	... 0.38
Other respiratory diseases	1	—	1	... 0.12
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ...	1	1	2	... 0.25
Congenital malformations	—	1	1	... 0.12
Other defined and ill defined diseases	3	1	4	... 0.51
Motor vehicle accidents	—	1	1	... 0.12
All other accidents	1	—	1	... 0.12
Total all causes ...	41	28	69	

From this table it is seen that the leading causes of death are circulatory diseases with 32 deaths and cancer in one form or another with 21 deaths. There were no deaths from tuberculosis. Bronchitis caused 3 deaths, pneumonia 3, motor accident 1, and other accidents 1.

TABLE V. **Deaths (Childbirth)—Nil.**

There were no deaths attributable to pregnancy or childbirth.

TABLE VI. **Death Rate (Infantile)**—that is, infants under one year old :—

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate ...	1 ...	— ...	1
Illegitimate ...	1 ...	— ...	1
Total ...	2	—	2

Infantile Death Rate of Legitimate babies per 1000 Legitimate Births :—

1958—16.52
1959—17.63
1960—24.79
1961—32.00
1962—36.49
1963—38.72
1964—24.24
1965—12.90
1966—5.81
1967—8.19

Infantile Death Rate of Illegitimate babies per 1000 Illegitimate Births :—

1958—Nil
1959—Nil
1960—Nil
1961—Nil
1962—166.66
1963—200.00
1964—Nil
1965—Nil
1966—Nil
1967—125.0

Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Live Births (Legitimate and Illegitimate) :—

1958—15.15
1959—17.09
1960—24.00
1961—30.30
1962—41.95
1963—43.75
1964—23.52
1965—12.19
1966—5.49
1967—15.38

England and Wales : Infantile Death Rate per 1000 Live Births :—

1958—22.5
1959—22.0
1960—21.7
1961—21.4
1962—21.6
1963—21.1
1964—20.0
1965—19.0
1966—19.0
1967—18.3

There were 2 deaths of infants under one year old, compared with 1 in 1966, 2 in 1965, 4 in 1964 and 7 in 1963.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Officers — The other Officers serving the Urban District during the year were :—

Clerk—E. H. Rees, A.I.M.T.A.

Treasurer—A. J. Hutchings (until June) ; H. Barrington Evans (from October).

Surveyor—E. J. Stokes, C. Eng., M.I. Mun. E.

Laboratory Facilities — Provided by the Public Health Laboratory at Chester, and the Public Analyst, Chester.

Ambulance Services — Provided by the Flintshire County Council. Ambulances are stationed within the Urban Area on a 24-hour service.

Midwifery and Home Nursing Services are provided by the County Council. Two District Nurse/Midwives reside in the area.

Home Help — This service is provided by the County Council. Persons requiring home help should get in touch with the Home Help Organiser at the County Health Department or with the Medical Officer of Health.

Tuberculosis.

Clinics—"Oaklands," Chester Road, Queensferry; Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m. The Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham; Mondays at 9-30 a.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics.

The Clinic, Mold. First and third Mondays of the month at 9-30 a.m.

School Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 9-30 a.m.

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. First Friday of each month, 2 to 4 p.m.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

This is done in the schools and at Chest Clinics.

Dental Clinic.

School children and expectant mothers are treated at the Clinic, King Street, Mold, by appointment.

Orthopaedic Clinic.

Shotton—New Clinic, Central School. First and third Wednesdays of each month at 10 a.m., and at Wrexham and Holywell.

Infant Welfare.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Wednesdays at 1-30 p.m.

Ophthalmic Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. The second and fourth Mondays of the month at 1-30 p.m. (by appointment).

Speech Therapy Clinic.

The Clinic, King Street, Mold. Second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

Health Visiting.

Health Visitor/School Nurses are provided by the County Council. These Nurses visit children in their homes up to school age, and attend at the Infant Welfare Clinic sessions.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

This service is maintained by close liaison between the Medical Officer, Health Visitor/School Nurses, Tuberculosis Health Visitors, Home Help Organiser, the Welfare Department, the County Health Department, and voluntary bodies, including associations caring for the blind and deaf, and those otherwise handicapped.

Vaccination is carried out by general medical practitioners, but it may be done by the Medical Officer on request.

National Assistance Act, 1948 (Section 47). (Removal to suitable premises of persons in need of care and attention).

No cases were dealt with under this heading during the year, but several cases were visited in this connection.

Hospitals.

Hospital accommodation is provided by the Clwyd and Deeside Hospital Management Committee. Mold Cottage Hospital remains in use and provides services for local residents. Patients are admitted to other hospitals in the district, mainly in Wrexham and Chester. The provision of out-patient facilities at Mold is much appreciated by local residents.

Prevalence and control of Notifiable Diseases (excluding Tuberculosis), 1967.

TABLE VII.

Diseases.	Cases notified.		Deaths notified.
Scarlet Fever	— (1)	...	—
Whooping Cough	— (0)	...	—
Measles	2 (2)	...	2
Acute Pneumonia	— (0)	...	3
Meningitis	— (0)	...	—
Erysipelas	— (0)	...	—
Poliomyelitis	— (0)	...	—
Dysentery	1 (0)	...	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	— (0)	...	—
Food Poisoning	— (0)	...	—
Paratyphoid Fever	— (0)	...	—
Total ...	3 (3)		3

Figures in brackets are those for 1966.

TABLE VIII.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases. The figures shown in column 1 of the previous table are analysed in age groups below.

Disease.	Under 1.	1-4.	5-9.	10-14	15-44.
Measles ...	—	1	1	—	—
Dysentery ...	—	—	1	—	—

There were no cases of infantile paralysis (poliomyelitis). There were no cases of diphtheria during the year. Influenza of a mild type was prevalent in the spring causing no deaths. Combined vaccination against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus is now available. Most mothers now have their children protected. Chickenpox and mumps were prevalent amongst the younger children.

There were no notifications of food poisoning during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases notified during 1967.

Age Groups.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Total.
Under 5 years ...	1	—	1
5-14 years ...	1	—	1
15-24 „ ...	1	—	1
25-44 „ ...	—	—	—
45-64 „ ...	1	—	1
65 and over ...	—	—	—
All ages	4	—	4

There were 4 notifications of new cases of tuberculosis compared with 1 in 1966, 3 in 1965, none in 1964, 2 in 1963, 2 in 1962, and 6 in 1961.

There were no deaths from this complaint.

Three of the cases were in one family, the fourth was an elderly man. All four cases recovered with treatment.

Mass X-Ray Surveys.

It was decided in 1957 to have regular visits by the Semi-Static Mass X-Ray Unit, the Unit being stationed at the County Hall Field for one whole day every three weeks. This new system began operating in July, 1957, and results have been satisfactory. Adults and children of thirteen years and over can attend, with or without a doctor's letter, and this procedure has continued since. 1,096 persons were examined during the year—an average of 69 persons per visit of the Unit.

In addition to the above programme, the Mass X-Ray Unit continues to visit schools, factories and other works in the County.

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

This service continued during 1967. Vaccination is offered to all suitable secondary school pupils between 12 and 14 years. The children are "skin-tested" in school, and those with a negative reaction are given the necessary single injection.

Anti-Poliomyelitis Vaccination.

During 1967 vaccination against poliomyelitis continued.

In February, 1962, the Sabin vaccine — a live vaccine given by mouth — was introduced at Mold Clinic. This method is used at all Clinics and is well received. Three doses of three drops of vaccine are given at intervals of one month.

REPORT OF THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This year, being my first full year of office, has, in many ways, been one of assessment and preparation. It has been a year in which conclusions have been drawn and an effort made to prepare the basis from which a more comprehensive and efficient service in public health matters can develop.

There are limits to the achievements of any one individual; this year has required an all out effort in the field of public cleansing, housing, meat inspection and, in the latter part of the year, smoke control area work. Whilst these subjects receive attention later in my report, I believe it relevant to say that the greatest difficulty that has been experienced is that never at any time has it been possible to concentrate on any particular aspect of work to a prompt conclusion. The day to day administrative demands preclude concentration, and any considered improvement is slow to materialise.

It is therefore appropriate that appreciation be expressed for the acceptance of the necessity to appoint a Deputy Public Health Inspector. This is, without any doubt, a factor which will affect to a very considerable degree not only the standard of work of the Department but will also enable progress to be made in those fields which have for long been neglected—due simply to the fact that it is impossible for any one officer to be in more than one place at a time.

It is most disheartening to be aware of important work requiring attention and to know that it is a physical impossibility to tackle it. Conversely it is most heartening to have support in resolving the problem. and in the understanding that public health work is of importance, capable of being pursued properly only by an adequately staffed Department.

Summary of Inspections, etc.

Public Health Acts.

Investigation of Complaints and Nuisance ...		28
Drainage		23
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection ...		2
Water Supplies		18
Water Samples		14
Dirty Houses		6
Offensive Trades		13
Trade Effluents		39
Mortuary		43
Public Conveniences		20
Rodent Control		509
Other Visits		19
Number of Informal Notices	9	
Number of Statutory Notices	5	

Housing Acts.

Inspections for representation		39
General visits, searches, etc.		116
Improvement Grants		46
Multiple occupation		6
Other visits		35
Number of Demolition/Closing Orders made	25	
Number of houses demolished ...	28	

Food and Drugs Act, Regulations, etc.

Food Premises, etc.		95
Slaughterhouse		14
Meat Inspection		137

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection		71
Refuse Disposal—controlled tipping		222
Street Cleansing		114
Other—plant, equipment, etc.		106
Abandoned vehicles		7
New disposal site preparation		57

Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

Visits of all kinds		28
Number of Notices served	8	

Factories Act.

Factories with power		4

Clean Air Act, 1956.

Smoke Control Areas	140
Factories	1

Petroleum Spirit.

Inspections of Stores	10

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS, ETC.

Duties under these Acts were of a general nature during the year without any particular aspect being predominant. Complaints of nuisances arising from unsatisfactory repair of properties were very small, such complaints being, in the main, related to the desire for a Council house rather than to the desire for repairs to be carried out.

In past years complaints for repairs were numerous, there being a comparatively high proportion of people living in sub-standard houses. The reduction of requests for repairs to be carried out reflects not only the fact there is an increasing participation in house ownership but also the fact that the proportion of poor and neglected properties has been diminished by the continuing programme of demolition of unfit houses.

During the year fourteen water samples were taken for bacteriological examination; and towards the end of the year it was expected that the pH rectifier, to correct the plumbo solvent properties of the water, would be operating in early 1968.

Demands upon the services of the Rodent Operator were a little less than in 1966, and although conclusions should not be hastily drawn, it may be that the prompt attention given to complaints and the detailed treatments carried out are beginning to show dividends. Sewer treatment at the beginning of the year indicated the public sewers to be virtually free from rat infestation.

Complaints of insect pests were very small and received the necessary attention and treatment.

POST MORTEM ROOM AND MORTUARY.

During the year ninety-three post mortems were carried out and the mortuary used fourteen times.

At the end of the year it was found necessary for the adjoining Chapel to be demolished rather than incur a very high expenditure to eliminate a serious attack of dry rot. Upon careful examination of the mortuary it was found that there was evidence of a similar attack but fortunately only to a minor degree. Preparations were put in hand to give this attention in January, 1968.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

Damage occurred on several occasions during the year, in the main being to door locks and to doors.

Defacement by scribblings, usually of a somewhat lurid character, appears to be a habit passed on to each generation ; and our expensive educational system does not appear to produce any original artists, poets or literary geniuses in this field ; only the standard of spelling has improved. It is always something of a problem to know how long such defacements should be left before redecorating doors, for determined efforts are sometimes made with sharp instruments or with liquids which are not readily removed without stripping down to bare wood before redecorating.

Daily cleaning is carried out and it never ceases to give rise to amazement that in this day and age there are people who will use conveniences and leave them in the disgusting state in which they are sometimes found by the cleaners.

STREET MARKET AND MARKET HALL.

The street market continues to thrive and demand for spaces is high. On occasion it became necessary to put pressure on traders who did not control their litter.

The Market Hall was redecorated early in the year and the lighting improved.

HOUSING ACTS.

During the year some twenty-five houses were dealt with by the making of Closing or Demolition Orders and sixteen more were in preparation for so doing at the end of the year. With the new Council houses at Bryn Gwalia becoming available for letting, many occupiers of unfit houses were rehoused, and it became possible to demolish twenty-eight houses in the year.

Interest in Improvement Grants remained at a low level although there were many enquiries on the subject. Often it was found that whilst owner occupiers were anxious to provide the standard grant facilities in their houses (usually an old type terraced house), they were handicapped by the knowledge that adjoining properties were in poor condition and continuing deterioration of these properties would result in the whole area having to be dealt with eventually for demolition. In other cases it became obvious that the ability to carry out the grant work was limited by the inability to afford the concurrent repairs required to assure a reasonable life for the property.

The continuing expansion of the town in the development of new estates appears to influence the population to only a limited degree, although much of the building is for incomers to the area. This, too, in a way, is a sign of the times, for it is noticeable that the incidence of overcrowded accommodation is very low, sons and daughters now obtaining their own accommodation upon marriage, rather than living and bringing up families in their parents' home. It would seem that the outgoing from the area is slightly lower than the influx from other areas, with an increase of population of about 2 %.

FOOD AND DRUGS ADMINISTRATION.

Throughout the year it became more and more apparent that a considerable and protracted effort would be necessary to raise the general standard of both structural and personal hygiene in food premises in the town.

Such an effort cannot be successful unless it is made continuously, and the application of legislation be upon all concerned. Erratic inspection of some, rather than all, pre-

mises gives rise to criticism, and whilst the risk to the public at large is greater from the activities of certain types of food premises the basic requirements of good food handling practice is applicable to all.

As a market town serving a large surrounding area, there is responsibility towards the people who, by their very act of using the town as a shopping centre, bring business and prosperity to the town.

In the purchase of most goods a customer has the opportunity to assess the quality and finish of the article purchased, and, if dissatisfied with performance, subsequently can return it or require service to rectify any faults.

With food, on the other hand, a customer can only rely on the good practices of the manufacturer or other food handlers involved. Presentation of food in an attractive way is good business, but the faults of food handling can give rise to dangerous commodities, no less attractive in appearance than the well handled food, but contaminated invisibly by organisms giving rise to illness which can in serious cases be a contributory cause of death.

The regular inspection of food premises is necessary to ensure that every effort is made to protect and handle foods in such a manner that the likelihood of such contamination is reduced to an absolute minimum. This is elementary preventive medicine ; and the extent to which the local Council of any area pursues this protective application of its powers can very easily be assessed by the general standard of the food shops in its area.

What is so important to be realised is that we are dealing with one of the basic elements of life, and the work is not such as to warrant anything less than constant application of the standards laid down as being the minimum necessary.

During the year requests were received from time to time to inspect foodstuffs which had, from one cause or another, given rise to doubt in the mind of the retailer as to the fitness or wholesomeness of that food. Arising from such consultations and from the advice given, the following foods were surrendered as being unfit for human consumption :—

Biscuits	48 packets
Bread	4 dozen
Cakes	20 dozen
Chickens	48 lbs.
Cooked Meats	28 lbs.
Fish	4 tins
Fish	65 stone
Flour	90 lbs.
Frozen Foods	4,131 packets
Fruit	22 tins
Meat	47 tins
Meat	145 lbs.
Onions	280 lbs.
Soup	2 tins
Turkey	21 lbs.
Vegetables	12 tins

The following complaints about foods purchased were received. In no case was the purchaser prepared to give evidence for a prosecution, but the usual enquiries were made as were the necessary contacts with the firms involved :—

1. Small tin of Corned Beef—Meat dark on corner of pack. Sent to Analyst. Bacteriologically harmless. Meat slightly overcooked.
2. Baby food (bottled), mould growth—Extensive enquiries made on this, including direct consultation with manufacturers, wholesalers, etc., as to packaging and handling. Damage (minute) to container lid reason for mould growth. All similarly coded stocks removed from shop concerned and returned for examination.
3. Tin of Processed Peas (sour)—Fault of canning procedure which can happen despite all precautions. Manufacturers' representative consulted.
4. 2 lbs. Sugar—Apparently contaminated by dark specks of unknown substance. Manufacturers' chemist examined at this office, high-powered microscope being used. Dark specks on magnification were seen to be sugar crystals—discoloured from accumulating in plant ducting, becoming slightly damp and darkening. Assurance given that this matter would receive immediate attention at the factory concerned.
5. Packet of frozen Brussel Sprouts—Grub found in centre of brussel sprout. Representative of firm interviewed.

Food Samples.

The Public Health Inspector to the Flintshire County Council, Mr. E. Lewis, carried out routine food sampling and the following information relative to samples taken in this Council's area during the year is derived from his report :—

Description of Article.	No. of samples taken.	Genuine.	Not genuine or below standard.
Milk ...	9	9	—
Dairy Products ...	2	2	—
Ice Cream, etc. ...	4	4	—
Alcoholic Drinks ...	4	4	—
Fish and Meat Products ...	3	3	—
Patent Medicines ...	4	4	—
Miscellaneous Groceries ...	3	3	—
Fruit and Vegetables ...	6	6	—
Sausages ...	4	4	—
	39	39	

No evidence of fungicides, pesticides or colouring matter were found in the samples of fruit and vegetables.

Ten samples of farm bottled milk were also submitted for biological examination and no evidence of bovine tuberculosis, brucellosis or penicillin were found in any of the samples.

All samples taken for chemical analysis under the Pharmacy and Poisons Act and Fertiliser and Feeding Stuffs Act were satisfactory.

Other Sampling.

During the year, eight samples for bacteriological examination were taken from the two manufacturers of ice cream in the town.

Six were satisfactory. Of the two which were not, one was as a result of inability to transport the sample satisfactorily due to failure of the insulated container used for this purpose. The other arose due to the manufacturer (who uses a soft ice cream dispenser) acquiring a new and different make of dispenser, the cleaning and sterilising procedures for this new machine being more complex than the machine to

which he had been accustomed. The sample was taken very soon after commencement of use and without doubt the poor result demonstrated most clearly to him that the advice given on the procedures to be adopted was based upon sound practical knowledge rather than upon theory.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE AND SLAUGHTERING.

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	42	—	130	3938	84
Number inspected	42	—	130	3938	84
All diseases except tuberculosis :					
Wohle carcases condemned	—	—	—	25	—
Part of carcases or offal condemned	5	—	3	1269	1
Percentage affected with disease other than tuberculosis	11.9	—	2.3	32.86	1.19
Tuberculosis only :					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcase or offal condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—
Cysticercus Bovis :					
Whole carcase condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcase or offal condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage affected with cysticercus bovis	—	—	—	—	—

During the early part of the year slaughtering was discontinued and, after some works were carried out to the slaughterhouse, recommenced.

At the end of the year the occupier of the slaughterhouse surrendered his licence indicating a wish to use the premises for other purposes.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse Collection.

During the first six months of the year there were times when the labour situation was so difficult that the service for over half the district was at the point of collapse. On one vehicle alone the loss of man hours per week averaged 55 hours, and on more than one occasion exceeded 80 hours per week. It was very evident that the particular employees' attitude to work left much to be desired, but by the middle of the year, at which time the Department was fortunate in obtaining the services of two new drivers and two new collectors, it had become possible to replace the unsatisfactory employees. With some rearrangements of the cleansing routes and adjustment of work load, by the end of the year collection was proceeding smoothly and the incidence of lost man hours had dropped to nil.

The decision to purchase a new refuse vehicle became necessary by the end of the year and serious consideration was being given to the extension of the pilot scheme of paper sack storage of refuse. The pilot scheme had been commenced early in the year as the Bryn Gwalia houses became occupied, and was received enthusiastically by the refuse collectors and not a single complaint has been received from persons using them. In fact, many enquiries were made to the Department as to how soon all houses in the district would have them ; and this type of enquiry frequently arose from owners of newly built houses in the town who had experienced their use elsewhere and were not anxious to return to the dustbin.

Refuse Disposal.

The lease for the Rhual tip being signed in May enabled the commencement of preparations for its use. As is usual where loan consent is required, there was delay before building, etc., could commence. By the end of the year, however, the main fencing, garage and toilet, etc., accommodation were basically complete and general site levelling had also been carried out.

It was envisaged at this time that use would be commenced by about June 1968, the approval for purchase of the new refuse handling equipment being timed for about this

time and it being necessary to continue the use of the existing (Bromfield Lane) site until such time as the frontage, etc., could be left in a reasonable state.

The fact that it was possible to proceed so rapidly with the building work at the Rhual was due entirely to the co-operation and invaluable assistance of the Engineer and Surveyor's Department who carried out the work. Had this not been so it would have been a full time job supervising the construction, to the detriment of all other work.

Considerable difficulty arose in the use of the Bromfield Lane site in the early part of the year due to very wet conditions and the tip being split in two by the unpiped brook course. The piping was eventually carried out but, because the disturbance arising from this work drastically interfered with good tipping practice it was several weeks after completion before it could be said that conditions were under reasonable control.

Initial preparation and tipping levels were laid down at this time, planning the procedure of infilling for the next twelve months (i.e., to June 1968), so that when the site is left it will present a proper appearance.

Street Sweeping.

This service presents, in many ways, an intractable problem. Labour is virtually impossible to obtain at the pay rates laid down, the work is considered to be too undignified even for the unemployed and yet the need becomes yearly greater in order to attempt to control the amount of small litter which is thoughtlessly deposited about the town. Observations have been made on litter bins in streets where litter is at its worst and it was seen that of persons having disposable articles, only one in three used a bin in the vicinity.

The number of litter bins sited around the town has been increased by one-third, their provision being made in conjunction with development and as soon as suitable posts, etc., are available to which they can be fixed.

Approval was given to purchase a Vacuum Sweeper in 1968, and it is anticipated that this will enable every street in the town to be swept weekly and the centre of the town daily, a service which it has never been previously possible to provide.

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

The statutory report required by the Act is as follows :—

	Total No. of Registered Premises.	Premises Inspected.
Offices	58 ...	2
Retail Shops	118 ...	5
Wholesale shops, warehouses ...	9 ...	1
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	13 ...	3
Fuel storage depots	4 ...	—
	202	11

PERSONS EMPLOYED.

Class of workplace.	Number of persons employed.
Offices	249
Retail shops	454
Wholesale departments, warehouses ...	40
Catering establishments open to the public	32
Canteens	4
Fuel storage depots	10
	789
Total Males	282
Total Females	507

Number of visits of all kinds (including general inspections)—28.

As will be seen, the number of inspections it was found possible to carry out was very low, daily demands in other directions resulting in failure to make any inroads into the outstanding requirements of the Act (now four years old).

It is intended in 1968, with the additional staffing appointment having been agreed, that, in order to avoid adverse criticism which will be forthcoming from the Ministry of Labour unless better progress is made, this work will receive the attention which it deserves.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

The No. 2 Smoke Control Order became operative on 1st November, 1967, and brings approximately one-sixth of the premises in the town under smoke control.

There have been, and no doubt there will be, complaints and criticism on this locally highly controversial subject.

As is usual, the noisiest complaints are the ones most often heard; but it should not go unsaid that the Department has had many enquiries as to how soon the areas will be extended. This type of enquiry does not reach the headlines but it is encouraging to know that for every noisy complaint there is an equal number of residents interested in the extended application of smoke control.

PETROLEUM SPIRIT.

Number of petroleum stores licensed	21
Total gallonage	74,000 gallons
Fees paid	£24/15/0

FACTORIES.

There is only one out-worker in the Mold Urban District and conditions are satisfactory.

Premises. (1)	Number of: No. on Register. (2)	Inspections. (3)	Written Notices. (4)	Occupiers Prosecuted. (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3 ...	1 ...	1 ...	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) where Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	54 ...	3 ...	1 ...	—
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	— ...	— ...	— ...	—
Total ...	57	4	2	—

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				
			Referred		
	Found.	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	In which prosecutions were instituted.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :—					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	2	1	—	—	—

GENERAL.

In concluding my report for 1967 I wish to take the opportunity to thank the Members of the Council for their support and for their interest in the work of the Department, and in particular for the support given by the Chairman of the Health Committee, Mr. Kenneth S. Davies.

It cannot be emphasised enough that knowledge of such support contributes to a very considerable degree towards the morale of all staff; and the fact that the pressures and difficulties encountered during the year were in the main overcome, is due in no small part to the efforts of Miss C. McManus and Mr. G. Bevan, whose interest and reliability in the duties they were called upon to perform stemmed, I am sure, from an understanding that their efforts were supported and appreciated.

I would also like to thank Dr. Fraser for his quiet but pertinent advice from time to time and for his willing help when required; and this appreciation should also be extended to all Officers of the Council for the co-operation and assistance which has always been so willingly given.

R. GOUCHER,

Chief Public Health Inspector.